**I. Amendments**

To the Claims:

This listing of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims) will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

**Listing of Claims:**

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Withdrawn) A method of retaining a lens capsule during cataract surgery of mammals, comprising the steps of:

inserting a lens equatorial region retainer, comprising a rod-shaped handle and a tip bent at an acute angle and including, at a free end thereof, a linear branched pad, in the lens capsule so that the pad pushes against the equatorial region to retain the capsule; and

performing a lens nucleus and cortex extraction.

18. (Withdrawn) A method of retaining a lens capsule during an intraocular lens implantation surgery of mammals, comprising the steps of:

performing cataractous lens extraction;

inserting a lens equatorial region retainer, comprising a rod-shaped handle and a tip bent at an acute angle and including, at a free end thereof, a linear branched pad, in the lens capsule so that the pad pushes against the equatorial region to retain the capsule; and

implanting an intraocular lens in the capsule.

19. (Withdrawn) A method of retaining the lens capsule during a cataractous lens extraction and intraocular lens implantation of mammals, comprising the steps of:

performing anterior capsulotomy;

inserting a lens equatorial region retainer, comprising a rod-shaped handle and a tip bent at an acute angle and including, at a free end thereof, a linear branched pad, in the lens capsule so that the pad pushes against the equatorial region to retain the capsule; and

performing the cataractous lens extraction and intraocular lens implantation surgery.

20-21. (Canceled)

22. (New) An ophthalmic device for retaining a lens capsule, comprising:

a single rod forming a linear handle portion, an end of said rod being bent at an angle relative to the linear portion of the handle so that the end is not parallel to the linear portion of the handle, and a planar pad formed at a free portion of the end, wherein the plane of the pad is not parallel to the linear portion of the handle.

23. (New) The device as recited in claim 22, wherein the planar pad comprises two linear tips diverging from the end with respect to each other at an angle other than 0°.

24. (New) The device according to Claim 23, wherein each of the linear tips extends one of upward and downward relative to an axis of the linear portion of the handle.

25. (New) The device according to Claim 23, wherein each of the linear tips extends one of leftward and rightward relative to an axis of the linear portion of the handle.

26. (New) The device according to Claim 22, wherein the planar pad is a closed loop.

27. (New) The device according to Claim 22, wherein the planar pad is spatula shaped and has a surface area in a range of about 1 $mm^2$ to 30 $mm^2$.

28. (New) The device according to Claim 22, wherein the rod includes a second opposite end which is bent relative to the linear portion of the handle and includes thereon a positioning stopper.

29. (New) The device according to claim 22, wherein the rod includes another opposite end bent relative to the linear portion of the handle and terminating in an open loop.

30. (New) The device according to claim 22, wherein the rod includes another opposite end bent relative to the linear portion of the handle and terminating in a closed loop.

31. (New) The device according to Claim 22, wherein the device is made of a synthetic resin selected from at least one of polypropylene, nylon, silicone, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinyl fluoride, polymethyl methacrylate, polyimide, and a shape-memory resin.

32. (New) The device according to Claim 22, wherein the device is made of a metal selected from at least one of stainless steel, aluminum, titanium, and a shape-memory metal.

33. (New) The device according to claim 22, wherein the planar pad has a width in the range of about 1 mm to 15 mm.

34. (New) The device according to claim 22, wherein the pad is made of a material that is more flexible than the handle.